



*News from*  
**SALEM COUNTY**  
Office of Public Information

Evern D. Ford

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Administrator

Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8483

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2012

**SALEM COUNTY FREEHOLDERS TOUT POSITIVE  
REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS**

(SALEM, NJ) –Freeholder Director Julie A. Acton recently asked all of the Salem County Departments to submit updates from their prospective departments.

“We are nearly halfway through the year,” said Freeholder Director Acton. “It’s time to share the positive things that are happening in our county.”

The Salem County Departments reported on cost savings, new policies, grant funding, special projects, improved performance, collaborations, partnering, and training.

The report from the Planning and Agriculture Departments indicates they are very busy working with the municipal officials to complete the Future Wastewater Service Area map that has been approved by the County Planning Board for submission to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The staff has been active servicing shared services contracts for Master Planning and Zoning services with Elsinboro and Quinton Townships, prepared updated master plan goals and objectives for Elsinboro Township and prepared two new ordinances regulating solar and wind power installations. The group prepared planning reports for Quinton Township evaluating the Township Master Plan and Development Ordinance regulating grid scale solar development and added a new shared services agreement with Oldmans Township for planning services. Additionally the department continues with grant preparation and management for Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, Green Acres, NJDEP Wastewater Planning Grants, Federal and State Railroad construction grants.

Of particular note, a number of Salem County farms are in the process for completing the steps necessary to receive approval for funding during this calendar year.



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The Salem County Information Technology Department reports that they continue to support every agency in the county, including outside agencies, Inter-Agency counsel, Salem County Improvement Authority, Salem County Utilities Authority, and local municipality law enforcement. The department also reported that they have upgraded the Emergency Operations Center with 20 state of the art laptops and developed an unrestricted wireless internet connection for emergencies, enhancing communications within the EOC and also giving outside agencies the ability to connect to the internet during emergencies.

The IT Department installed and provided support for automatic license plate readers for the Sheriff's Department into municipality law enforcement vehicles. IT also provided Infocop Server access for Salem County municipalities.

IT provided assistance, assets and technical knowledge to increase the Security posture for the County and the Tri-State region. The project involves keeping watch of Salem County waterways. They also installed a new internet phone system and provided network communications to and from the new building.

The Salem County Sheriff's Department reports that they continue to maintain service, commitment and fiscal responsibility as the main priorities to the residents of Salem County. The Sheriff believes that the most effective law enforcement is a collaborative effort between City, County, state and federal partnerships and by providing this shared services approach Salem County becomes a safer place to live, visit and work.

The Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Department continues to serve the public safety needs of Salem County by providing a safe and secure facility to hold both convicted and non-convicted offenders. The Correctional Facility also continues to utilize inmate labor resources to provide a variety of work details at a significant cost savings on numerous projects throughout Salem County to many municipalities, County departments, and non-profit agencies.



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The Salem County Transit Department reports that 59,201 clients (passengers) have utilized the Salem County buses since January, 2012. The Salem County Shortline Railroad Hurricane Irene storm damages are repaired. The Round 3 TIGER Grant for 3.8 million dollars for the Oldmans Trestle replacement and the running track rehab is on schedule. Final engineering for the project has been completed. Trestle construction is scheduled to begin in June of 2013. The running track rehab construction is proposed for 2014.

The Salem County Department of Emergency Services – Office of Emergency Management secured a state health grant to purchase radio communication equipment for the seven long-term-care facilities to communicate with the 911 Center for emergency communications. Also purchased was one 25kw emergency generator to assist any healthcare facility with power failures. The Office of Emergency Management completed the annual FEMA graded nuclear exercise. This tested emergency plans between New Jersey, Salem County, and the six Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) towns and their emergency responders with a positive outcome.

The Salem County Fire Academy graduated nineteen students on June, 5, 2012 at the Davidow Performing Arts Theatre at Salem Community College in Carneys Pont. The fire fighter recruits recently completed a rigorous 175 hour course which spanned over five months.

The Salem County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participated in several community events including Mannington's Community Day, Elsinboro Day, Penns Grove Day and the FEMA Nuclear Exercise. The team also received training from NJSP on field communications and searches on June 7, 2012 at the Salem County Department of Emergency Services.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) part of the Department completed Salem Counties' first official Mass Casualty Plan. They held a table top exercise of the plan on December 10, 2012. A full scale exercise to test EMS and emergency responder capabilities to a large scale mass casualty incident is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.



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Upgrades to the 911 radio system are progressing. Two new tower sites are being negotiated. \$550,000 worth of new radio equipment has been received and is being installed. The 911 Center handled 3,931 Police calls for services, 280 fire calls for service and 1,147 EMS calls for service for a total of 5,358 calls for service in the month of May. Year-To-Date calls for service are a whopping 27,231.

The Salem County Health Department continues to work diligently to improve and educate the public's health and safety. The Nursing Division has applied for and received approval for the following grants: Cancer Education and Early Detection for \$110,000 and Special Health Case Management for \$39,000. Free vaccines for adults are now being offered at the departments weekly clinics. First responders were inoculated and will be receiving follow up shots. A new Lead Case II Pilot Program has been initiated whereby a finger stick lead screening is administered with quick results. Free childhood immunizations are given to non-insured children. Free Sexually Transmitted Disease clinics are conducted once a month at the Salem Hospital.

The Environmental Division has initiated a Mobile Food Vendor Program that gives Southern New Jersey counties a uniform way of protecting the public health and safety, from food borne contamination and illness. This has shown good results to date. A new website has been created for the Salem County Public Health that contains diverse important information for the public's review.

The Preparedness Division has participated in the Local Technical Assistance Review with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, assisted with numerous outbreak investigations, chaired the Inter-Agency Council Health Subcommittee meeting on Infant Mortality, and developed a table top exercise on a food borne disease outbreak for environmental communicable staff members. The division recently distributed KI tablets to the public and held a Tobacco Cessation Forum to encourage and inform the public of the dangers of smoking. The division continues their efforts to prepare Salem County residents for natural or bio-terrorist disasters.

The Public Works Department is working to provide a positive impact to the roadways and buildings of Salem County. The department has a fleet of tractors working to eliminate the high grass and weeds that may interfere with the sight of our County drivers, spraying all guide rails and poles and painting roadway lines and center striping. The department's goal is to work together to provide coverage to the whole County.



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The Mosquito Department has been doing surveillance and inspection for the last couple of months with many of the areas being treated with Larvacide. The Adulticide Spraying Program is being kicked off this month. To eliminate standing water crews have been out

doing ditch and stream clearing almost daily. The department also offers class room information programs in area schools.

The Department of Social Services continues to serve the social service needs of the Disabled, Aging, Drug & Alcohol, Mentally Ill and Youth Services Commission Juvenile Detention.

Some of the services include: home repair and modifications, energy assistance, rental assistance, insurance advocacy, APS, transportation, legal assistance, emergency management preparations, education services, IEP's, PT, OT speech, and behavior modifications. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Day is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Salem County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) is actively involved in a myriad of Community Outreach programs. The department is providing an assortment of programs to schools throughout Salem County, working with the Calvary Development Corporation and the ROPE group, the Diversity in Law Enforcement Academy (DILEA), the NAACP, Rotary, Ruritan, retirement groups, youth sports programs, and Salem County Women's Services Company.

The Prosecutor's Office monitors and oversees Homeland Security. To date \$4,000,000 in federal funds have been distributed to County and local agencies.

The SCPO has maximized collaborative police work between County Detectives and Sheriff Officers, local police departments, New Jersey State Police and federal agencies such as the DEA and the FBI. They also conduct training for all sworn officers in Salem County through the Law Enforcement Education Program and provide active patrols in marked vehicles in high crime areas.

The SCPO presently maintains the lowest "post-indictment backlog" in the state and consistently is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> best in pre-indictment backlog in the state.



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The Salem County Office of the County Clerk continues to be responsible for the maintenance of all records belonging to the County of Salem. These include land records and historical documents. They also process passports, register businesses, register all physicians in the county, provide notary public services, issue identification cards, issue veterans peddlers licenses, conduct all election functions, process applications for ballots, design ballots, certify election results.

The office also provides: Valentine's Day Weddings, Veterans Tributes for Every War to Date, Veterans ID cards, Good Samaritan Award, Educational seminars to groups and students on Salem County History, Junior Achievement teaching at local schools, and maintains the County Clerk Website (not connected to county).

"We can see that things are moving along nicely," said Director Acton. "Our employees are doing a great job and for that we are very grateful."